PHIL COY

Artist-in-residence at Brunel University London



4 October - 16 December 2019 with <u>Public Programme</u> 29 November - 1 December 2019

Phil Coy is the inaugural Artist-in-Residence (2018 - 2019) at Brunel University, initiated by Professor Will Self and Professor in Experimental Particle Physics, Akram Khan. Coy has responded with a series of interrelated temporary and permanent works that include video, sound and sculptural installations, and a series of freely distributed publications.

This public programme is an opportunity to view the works currently installed on campus. A walking tour, artist talk and in-conversation with Akram Kahn will reveal Coy's research and process.

Works include a new permanent sculptural commission, *Conical forms [three listening devices]* which will be installed at Brunel University in 2020. Referencing pre-radar aircraft listening devices, and a horn based on the famous locally produced HMV 'Morning Glory' gramophone, the work incorporates aggregate recycled from the former John Crank Building, demolished during Coy's residency.

The physical and material significance of Brunel's location on the western fringes of London, nestled between the M4, M40 and M25 motorways, has been a central tenet of the residency. The excavation and manufacture of concrete since the late 19th century has irreversibly changed the landscape, creating familial swathes of utilitarian architecture, and huge hollows and lakes. Coy will show rushes from his new film *Grey goo*, that explores the life cycle of concrete and Brunel's architectural connection to this history, with its formation as a Plate Glass University in 1966, its use as one of the settings in Stanley Kubrick's A Clockwork Orange (1971), and the recent demolition of the John Crank Building.

Eleven Windsocks for Brunel, installed atop the original 1960's campus buildings, considers the close proximity to Heathrow, the world's second busiest airport. Coy designed the five-strip windsocks to comply with standard FAA aviation specifications, used by pilots to determine wind direction and speed. Coy has modified the two-colour design standard so each windsock reflects the palette of a local bird's plumage.

Positioned in an unpresuming location to the rear of Richard Sheppard's iconic Brutalist Lecture Centre is *Site office [closed circuit meditation retreat]*, an 18 channel video installation housed within a newly introduced, standard portacabin. The work incorporates data from five-hundred CCTV collected during a campus-wide intervention - *Fallen Eight*. Viewers are invited to use the choreographed patterns in pedestrian movement as an aid for meditation. The work was developed with Brunel Security and performed with thirty volunteers from staff, students and local residents.

The cars hiss by my window like the waves down on the beach is a 16 channel audio installation, heard in outdoor locations on campus and in the Antonin Artaud Theatre. The work transposes a 50 metre section of the M25 near Heathrow, and takes its eponymous title from The Doors' final album, LA Woman (1971). It is developed with composers and musicians Carl Faia and Graeme Shaw.

Reflecting Coy's practice in experimental publishing, the residency programme includes the launch of *Plumes*, the third in the series from the *youarehere!* imprint, conceived together with Will Self as a freely distributed publication. Plumes references the classic Frederick Warne & Co Observer's guide to birds, inviting visitors to identify bird species from the abstracted flashes of colour produced by Eleven Windsocks for Brunel. Previous imprints *Hollows of Heathrow, Hillingdon, and Hayes [inverted images of voids on the Western Fringes of London]*, and *Visual Control Room [VCR]* will be available for visitors to take away. The electronic publication, *Highway Haiku* is displayed on a VMS (Variable Message Screen) road-side billboard at the campus Eastern entrance. Here, Coy invited students and staff to write haiku based on their daily commute in a time of impending global climate catastrophe.

Phil Coy is an artist working across a range of media, collaging concepts rooted in the radical art and literature of the 20th century, with languages and architectures of contemporary global commerce. His work considers the perceptual shift from analogue to digital media, particularly in the context of landscape representation. He frequently works with specific communities, architects, software developers, musicians and scientists to produce digital films, generative performances, and public works. Recent exhibitions and screenings include: Tintype Gallery (2019), South London Gallery (2018); Royal Observatory Greenwich Planetarium (2018); York Art Gallery (2018); Annely Juda Fine Art (2018); FACT, Liverpool (2017); Whitechapel Gallery, London (2017); Feren's Art Gallery and Hull Maritime Museum (2017); Wilkinson Gallery, London (2016); and Eastside Projects, Birmingham (2016).

Schedule:

Friday 29 November

13:00: Buffet Lunch in Lecture Centre building (mezzanine level)

13.20 - 14:00: Phil Coy in conversation with Professor in Experimental Particle Physics, Akram Khan

14:30 - 15:30: Walking tour with Phil Coy, starting outside Lecture Centre

Saturday 30 November

10:00 - 16:00: Installations open

12:00: Walking tour with Phil Coy, starting outside Lecture Centre

or by appointment mail@youarehere.work

Sunday 1 December

13:00: Buffet Lunch in Lecture Centre building (mezzanine level) Walking tour with Phil Coy, starting outside Lecture Centre 13:30 - 14:30: Drinks reception in Lecture Centre (mezzanine level) 14:40 - 15:00: 15:00 - 16:00:

Phil Coy in conversation with Professor in Experimental Particle Physics, Akram Khan

16:00 - 16:30: Drinks reception and close (mezzanine level)

The residency is accompanied by a poster edition and commissioned text by artist, curator and writer, Richard Grayson. For further information please visit www.youarehere.work or contact mail@youarehere.work

Map of works for Brunel University Campus Guided tours 29 Nov - 1 Dec 2019

